



Legislative Update

Final Report for 2001 Legislative Session

June 15, 2001

Reasons to Celebrate the 2001 Indiana General Assembly

At the outset, the Commission, the Council, and Partners made 9 recommendations for legislative action. Of these, four became law:

1. The per se BAC level was reduced to .08 percent – HEA1618.
2. Chemical testing is now required at all fatal crashes – SEA466.
3. Parity for coverage of substance abuse treatment is instituted for state employee health plans – HEA1001.
4. Penalties for methamphetamines and related changes put the substance on par with cocaine – HEA1892.

The leadership and hard work of individuals and organizations throughout Indiana and our networks made these successes happen. To name just a few – Shelly Neal, Representative Peggy Welch, Senator Bill Alexa, the Indiana State Police, the Mental Health Association of Indiana, the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, and the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition. Thanks to Tina Thien and MADD and Lisa Hutcheson and ICRUD, the public health community had a voice at hearings on alcohol legislation.

The Good The Bad The Ugly – HEA1585

The Good: The alcohol beverage commission is now the Alcohol Tobacco Commission (ATC). The superintendent of the Excise Police is now required to have law enforcement training and experience. Penalties are established for failing to pay civil fines for underage tobacco sales violations. The rules concerning signage have been strengthened and permit fees have been increased. **The Not So Great:** Express hotels are now allowed to sell alcoholic beverages – as a nighttime alternative to their breakfast bars? 19 & 20 year-olds are allowed to serve alcoholic beverages in restaurants. The restrictions on Internet sales of alcohol are loosened.

The MADD lobbyists worked with the conference committee to require responsible alcohol server training for underage servers and their supervisors before they can sell alcoholic beverages.

Name Changes Ahead

Not only do we now have the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, *HEA1813*, *mental health*, changes the Indiana Division of Mental Health to the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

Advocacy Tips & Information

- ✂ Now is the time for Coalitions and Advocates to plan their advocacy and policy change efforts!
 - ✂ Invite your community consultant to work with your coalition in preparing a policy change strategy.
 - ✂ Invite your legislator to a community meeting to report on the 2001 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Publicly acknowledge her/his support of your issues.
 - ✂ Take advantage of opportunities to prepare for policy advocacy: Many Voices One Vision: Valuing Difference & Building Strong Communities Conference, August 29-31, 2001, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. For more info, contact Lillian Henegar, 317-232-1142 or lhenegar@cji.state.in.us.